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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

N.I.A. VIEWS ON PROPOSED EXECUTIVE ORDER "DIRECTING THE
COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE COORDINATION
OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES"

Memorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence

1. By letter of 27 February, the Bureau of the Budget requested a statement of the views of the National Intelligence Authority with respect to a proposed Executive Order "Directing the Cooperation of Government Agencies in the Coordination of Foreign Intelligence Activities of the United States." Copies of the letter and proposed Executive Order are enclosed.

2. It is recommended that the National Intelligence Authority authorize the Director of Central Intelligence to reply to the Assistant Director, Bureau of the Budget, presenting the views of the N.I.A. as follows:

"The National Intelligence Authority has considered the proposed Executive Order 'Directing the Cooperation of Government Agencies in the Coordination of Foreign Intelligence Activities of the United States' enclosed in your letter of 27 February 1946. In carrying out the President's Directive of 22 January the National Intelligence Authority has so far encountered no impediment which would constitute a basis for recommending that the Directive should be superseded by an Executive Order. However, the N.I.A. offers no objection to the issuance of such an Executive Order, provided that its effect will be merely to confirm and formalize the status of the N.I.A. as a cooperative interdepartmental activity, rather than a new or independent agency requiring legislation for its existence.

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"If such an Executive Order is to be issued, it should be made clear that the operation of the N.I.A. is in no sense an interim matter but is intended to be permanent. In this connection, the question is raised whether the phrase 'including Title I of the First War Powers Act, 1941 (55 Stat. 838)' should be specifically mentioned in the statement of authority upon which the Executive Order will rest. If the phrase is not necessary the N.I.A. feels that it should be omitted, since it appears to imply that some further action may be necessary upon the expiration of the first War Powers Act."

Enclosure:

As noted in para. 1 above.

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